**\*** *Indicates information was found at bookwizard.scholastic.com*

1. **The Hunger Games, Book 1 by Suzanne Collins**

* **\*Interest Level: Grades 6-8**
* **\*Reading Level: Grade 5.3, Lexile 810 L,**
* **\*Genre:** Adventure, Science Fiction

***Summary from bookwizard.scholastic.com:*** In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capital surrounded by twelve outlying districts.  The Capital is harsh and cruel and keeps the other districts in line by forcing them to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a fight-to-the death on live TV. One boy and one girl between the ages of twelve and sixteen are selected by lottery to play.  The winner brings riches and favor to his or her district.  But that is nothing compared to what the Capital wins: one more year of fearful compliance with its rules.

Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen, who lives alone with her mother and younger sister, regards it as a death sentence when she is forced to represent her impoverished district in the Games.  But Katniss has been close to dead before – and survival, for her, is second nature.  Without really meaning to, she becomes a contender.  But if she is to win, she will have to start making choices that weigh survival against humanity and life against love.

***Topics:*** Homelessness and Poverty, Social Issues and Conditions, Survival

***Sensitivity Issues:*** Violence

***Why Recommend:* A kid’s review-** The characters are realistic and the plot is intense and engrossing. An ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Readers.

1. **Catching Fire (The Hunger Games, Book 2) by Suzanne Collins**

* **\* Interest Level: Grades 6-8**
* **\* Reading Level: Grade 5.4, Lexile 820 L**
* **\*Genre:** Adventure, Science Fiction, Fantasy

***Summary from bookwizard.scholastic.com:***  Against all odds, Katniss Everdeen has won the annual Hunger Games with fellow district tribute Peeta Mellark. But it was a victory won by defiance of the Capitol and their harsh rules. Katniss and Peeta should be happy. After all, they have just won for themselves and their families a life of safety and plenty.

But there are rumors of rebellion among the subjects, and Katniss and Peeta, to their horror, are the faces of that rebellion. The Capitol is angry. The Capitol wants revenge.

***Topics:*** Equality, Fairness, Justice, Resourcefulness, Responsibility

***Sensitivity Issues:*** Violence

***Why Recommend:*** Collins replicated her initial success at balancing action, violence, and heroism in a way that will enthrall young readers without giving them (too many) nightmares.

1. **Mockingjay ( The Hunger Games, Book 3) by Suzanne Collins**

* **\* Interest Level: Grades 6-8**
* **\* Reading Level: Grade 5.4, Lexile 800 L**
* **\* Genre:** Adventure, Science Fiction, Young Adult

***Summary from bookwizard.scholastic.com:*** Katniss Everdeen, girl on fire, has survived, even though her home has been destroyed. Gale has escaped. Katniss's family is safe. Peeta has been captured by the Capitol. District 13 really does exist. There are rebels. There are new leaders. A revolution is unfolding.

It is by design that Katniss was rescued from the arena in the cruel and haunting Quarter Quell, and it is by design that she has long been part of the revolution without knowing it. District 13 has come out of the shadows and is plotting to overthrow the capitol. Everyone, it seems, has had a hand in the carefully laid plains — except Katniss.

The success of the rebellion hinges on Katniss's willingness to be a pawn, to accept responsibility for countless lives, and to change the course of the future of Panen. To do this, she must put aside her feelings of anger and distrust. She must become the rebels' Mockingjay — no matter what the personal cost.

Powerful and haunting, this thrilling final installment of Suzanne Collins’s groundbreaking The Hunger Games trilogy promises to be one of the most talked about books of the year.

***Topics:*** Homelessness and Poverty, Social Issues and Conditions, Survival

***Sensitivity Issues:*** Violence

***Why Recommend:*** "This concluding volume in Collins's Hunger Games trilogy accomplishes a rare feat, the last installment being the best yet, a beautifully orchestrated and intelligent novel that succeeds on every level. There's something here for nearly every reader, all of it completely engrossing." — *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

***The 39 Clues*** is a series of 10 [adventure](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adventure) books, combining [reading](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reading_%28process%29), [online gaming](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Online_gaming), and card collecting. Published by [Scholastic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scholastic_Corporation), the main part of the series consists of ten books about the adventures of siblings Amy and Dan Cahill who are competing with other members of their far-flung and powerful family to find the 39 Clues which will make them "the most powerful and influential person(s) on the planet". Their search takes them to many countries and introduces many historical figures.

Interest Level: Grades 3-8

Reading Level: 2.9-4.5

Genre: mystery, adventure

Book 5 : *The Black Circle* by Patrick Carman

Interest Level: 6-8

Reading Level: 4.3, Lexile 700

From Amazon:

The *Black Circle* sends the Cahill siblings off to Russia, where they chase down riddles left for them by someone only calling themselves "NRR." Is it a trap? Or is it really leading them to some of the biggest answers to their biggest questions?

Book 6: *In Too Deep* by Jude Watson

Interest Level: 6-8

Reading Level: 3.2, Lexile 550

From Amazon:

In this book Dan and Amy find themselves searching for clues in Australia and Indonesia and learning a little about Amelia Earhart and Mark Twain. They come close to death several times and are saved by someone who had been one of their enemies.

*Battle of the Labyrinth*: (Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Book 4) by Rick Riordan

* **\* Interest Level: Grades 6-8**
* **\* Reading Level: Grade 3.3 Lexile 590 L**
* **\* Genre:** Adventure, Fables, Folk Tales, Myths

From Amazon:

In this fourth installment of the blockbuster series, time is running out as war between the Olympians and the evil Titan lord Kronos draws near. Even the safe haven of Camp Half Blood grows more vulnerable by the minute as Kronos’s army prepares to invade its once impenetrable borders. To stop them, Percy and his demigod friends will set out on a quest through the Labyrinth—a sprawling underground world with stunning surprises at every turn. Full of humor and heart-pounding action, this fourth book promises to be their most thrilling adventure yet.

*Swear to Howdy* by [Wendelin Van Draanen](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/12950.Wendelin_Van_Draanen)

Interest Level 5-7

Reading Level: Grade: 5

Lexile: 620

Genre: General Fiction

***Summary adapted from bookwizard.scholastic.com*** The story is told through the voice of a Southern boy, Joey Banks’ best friend Rusty Cooper. Joey is a walking adventure. He’s funny, daring, mischievous—and frequently in trouble. Or he would be if anyone found out about half the stuff he’s done. But Rusty Cooper knows how to keep a secret. And Joey’s the best friend he’s ever had. But then comes a secret that is at once too terrible to tell and too terrible to keep. A secret so big it threatens to eat them[...](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/693448.Swear_to_Howdy)

Fat Chance by Leslea Newman

Interest Level: 6-8

Reading Level- 4..9, Lexile 970, GR N/R

Genre: Mystery/Suspense

***Summary from bookwizard.scholastic.com*** In a series of diary entries, thirteen-year-old Judi recounts her struggles to lose weight, hide her bulimia from her mother, find a boy friend, and decide on a profession.

*Black and White* by Paul Volponi

Interest Level: 9 - 12

Grade Level Equivalent: 3.9

Lexile® measure: 710L

Guided Reading: NR

Genre/Theme: General Fiction

Scholastic Book Wizard

Two high school basketball stars, one black and one white, see their lives move in different directions after they are arrested for shooting a man during a robbery. A gripping story about choices, friendship, and the implication of race in the justice sys